Chapter 12

Chapter 12 explains what adjustments layers are and how to create and edit them. The adjustment panel allows you to create and edit 15 types of adjustment layers as well provide buttons for viewing, clipping, and restoring your settings. This chapter is devoted primarily to the mechanics of using the Adjustments panel. Adjustment layers are flexible, meaning you can change the settings for them whenever you like plus you can restack, hide, show, or delete them. Adjustment layers don’t increase the file size, so you can create and keep as many as you need. When merging an adjustment layer downward, the adjustments are applied permanently to the underlying image.

Chapter 13

Chapter 13 discusses the specific features of the adjustments panel. Levels are usually used when you first bring a photo into Photoshop, then sometimes it is used again during the course of editing. To tweak the brightness or contrast in an image, you can use the Brightness/Contrast controls the panel. The photo filter adjustment layer neutralizes a color cast or allows you to apply a tint. The Black &White adjustment layer enable you to control how the individual R, G, B and C, M, Y color channels are converted to grayscale values. Using a Vibrance adjustment layer allows you to either strip the color completely from a layer or desaturate a layer partially and then adjust the vibrance to control the color intensity. A color balance adjustment layer can be used to apply a warm or cool cast to an image or to neutralize an unwanted cast. With the Hue/Saturation controls you can target specific colors then shift just those colors to a different hue or adjust their saturation or lightness. Auto Color Corrections lets you correct the luminosity and temperature of midtones. The curves layer allows you to adjust the values in a narrow tonal range. Shadows/Highlights adjusts the luminance of each individual pixel depending on the darkness or lightness of neighboring pixels.